

Amendments to the Claims

24. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting ~~method of inhibiting~~ bacteria from growing in a submersible well pump, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a pump with a housing and at least one rotary pump stage located therein, the pump stage having at least one passage for the flow of well fluid;

(b) applying a coating to the passage with a substance having a biocide that controls the activity of bacteria; then

(c) lowering the pump into the well; and

(d) operating the pump to cause well fluid to flow through the passage of the pump stage and to the surface of the well, the well fluid flowing over the coating, thereby inhibiting bacterial growth.

28. (New) A method of inhibiting ~~method of inhibiting~~ bacteria from growing in a submersible well pump, comprising the steps of:

providing a centrifugal pump with a housing and a plurality of pump stages located therein, each of the pump stages having an impeller and a diffuser;

applying a coating to at least portions of the impellers and diffusers with a substance that contains a biocide that controls the activity of bacteria; then

lowering the pump into the well; and

operating the pump to rotate the impellers, causing well fluid to flow through the impellers and diffusers in contact with the coating to inhibit bacterial growth on the impellers and diffusers.